

## A community discussion on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education

Written by Mike Honda

Wednesday, 06 August 2008 19:00

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Improving Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education is critically important to the continuing economic success of our nation.

To gain input from community leaders on the [Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Act](#), which I jointly introduced with Senator Barack Obama, I hosted a discussion this week at Lincoln Elementary School in Cupertino.

I was joined by representatives from the California Healthcare Institute, National Hispanic University, and Agilent Technologies in a conversation about how to address our nation's need for a scientifically literate citizenry and workforce.

Developing a workforce for the 21<sup>st</sup> century will require educational programs that will allow students to foster their love of science and technology. I was pleased to be joined by the Monte Vista High School Robotics Team for a stunning demonstration of applied science. Monte Vista is a school that has had great success in promoting science through such award-winning programs.

As a former science teacher at Sunnyvale High School, principal at Hillsdale Elementary School, and member of the San Jose Unified School District school board, I recognize that our economic resiliency, especially in Silicon Valley, depends on a solid educational foundation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

The eSTEM Act is a bi-partisan, bi-cameral bill that will provide a framework for federal agencies, states, and other stake-holders to work collaboratively to establish national STEM education goals and to coordinate STEM education initiatives. This legislation would not only bring visibility and credibility to national STEM initiatives, but would also provide for efficient use of federal dollars.

With continuing support from the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG), Silicon Valley Education Foundation (SVEF), Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, California Space Authority, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and other community organizations, I

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am optimistic that the necessary changes can be made to provide a world-class education to all our children.

[Learn more](#) about the eSTEM Act, or leave a comment to let me know what you think.